ELECTION TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEES AND TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

President: Order. Order. The following are the results of the elections held yesterday :—

Public Accounts Committee:

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan secured 13 votes.
Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai secured 9 votes.
Mr. T. K. Kitten secured 2 votes.
Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan was elected as a member of the Committee.

The Standing Finance Committee:

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail secured 16 votes.
Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi secured 10 votes.
Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail was elected as a member of the Committee.

The Board of Agriculture:

Mr. A. Eswara Pillai and Mrs. Abernam Gnanasikhamony each secured 13 votes. On casting lots Mrs. Gnanasikhamony was successful and was declared elected as a member of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

President: Order. Order. I have received notice of a motion for the adjournment of the House from Mr. James Fletcher which reads as follows :—

> "I beg leave to move for the adjournment of the House, to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the serious situation caused by various and contradictory rumours which are assiduously spread by the State Congress members and others regarding the extension of the life of the Legislatures."

I may say at once that Government have already taken steps to extend the life of the Legislatures until the 20th June 1942. It is too early now to come to any definite conclusion on the question of the date of the next elections. But I may mention at once that one reason why the political meetings were given the fullest liberty was in order to test how far these meetings could be conducted in peace and quiet. Obviously, in ordinary cases and under ordinary circumstances, Government, especially in junctures like this, will exercise certain powers to prevent any disturbances or any unrest or the rousing of feelings that may jeopardise the peace of the State. But such powers cannot, in the nature of things, be appropriately exercised in respect of election meetings. Once an election is ordered, then we cannot possibly stop election meetings on the ground that they might lead to difficulties. Such action is bound to be misunderstood. Therefore, Government are watching the situation carefully to see how far the existing political organisations

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